Wastage of foodgrains in jute packing

2249. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to refer to the reply to Unstarred Question 2380 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 8th August, 2002 and state:

(a) whether Government have since implemented the steps to minimise transit losses such as complete switchover to 50 kgs. (or less) packing and improvement in size and quality of jute bags;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have also procured Non-jute bass such as PP/HDPE Woven Sacks of 50 kgs. (or less) to reduce both cost and losses in packing of foodgrains; and

(d) if so, the quantity thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI U.V. KRISHNAM RAJU): (a) Yes, Sir. With effect from Kharif Marketing Season 2002-2003, the Food Corporation of India (FCI) has completely switched over to 50 kg. packing norms. With a view to minimize losses during transit due to spillage of grains from side seams, the provision of safety union stitch in the jute bags have been made by the FCI.

(b) With a view to further improve the quality of bags and to amend the existing Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) of jute bags, certain studies in respect of tolerance limit on allowable defects, sampling, criteria for conformity for jute bags/fabrics and for fabric faults have been conducted.

(c) and (d) No, Sir.

Diversion of foodgrains by FCI

2250. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the findings of the probe into diversion of wheat meant for the consumers to the traders by the Food Corporation of India in Haryana;